

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9182
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C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2382

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, BC, RH
SUBJECT: SPECIAL BRANCH LIST OF RHODESIAN VIOLATIONS OF BOTSWANA
BORDER

REF: GABORONE 2332

1. SPECIAL BRANCH HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THE TEXT OF DOCUMENT ENTITLED "INCIDENTS AFFECTING THE BOTSWANA/RHODESIAN BORDER." WE BELIEVE DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING UNSC SPECIAL SESSION. IT PROBABLY DESCRIBES THE 20 MOST SERIOUS INCIDENTS OF 31 MENTIONED BY VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE (REFTEL). FOUR OF THESE ARE NEW TO THE EMBASSY; THREE OF THEM INVOLVE PENETRATION OF BOTSWANA TERRITORY BY RHODESIAN-OPERATED HELICOPTERS. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS DESCRIBING THE THREE INCIDENTS INVOLVING HELICOPTERS AND ONE DEALING WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF A FREEDOM FIGHTER ALLEGEDLY COERCED INTO JOINING THE "SELOUS SCOUTS".

2. QUOTE: ON 15TH JULY 5 RHODESIAN HELICOPTERS WERE
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SEEN FLYING OVER NXAI PAN AT APPROXIMATELY 500 FEET
IN CLOSE FORMATION AND SPREAD OUT AS IF SEARCHING FOR
SOMETHING. THE HELICOPTERS WERE OF BATTLE GREEN
COLOURING. DURING THE EVENING OF THE SAME DAY, FURTHER
HELICOPTERS WERE HEARD AND LIGHTS SEEN ILLUMINATING
THEIR COCKPITS AS THEY FLEW LOW OVER THE PAN. ON THE

16TH JULY FOUR HELICOPTERS FLEW IN FROM THE NORTH, CIRCLED THE PAN AND RETURNED IN THE SAME DIRECTION. A SIMILAR PERFORMANCE WAS REPEATED BY THE SAME NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS THAT EVENING. AGAIN ON THE 17TH JULY A LONE HELICOPTER FLEW OVER THE PAN FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND BACK AGAIN NORTH, THIS OCCURED BOTH DRUING THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON. THE NEAREST POINT ON THE RHO-DESIAN BORDER TO NXAI PAN IS APPROXIMATELY 80 MILES AWAY.

3. QUOTE: ON THE 7TH AUGUST 1976, A SINGLE HELICOPTER WITH 8 RHODESIAN SOLDIERS LANDED 50 MILES WEST OF MAITENGWE

(WHICH IS ON THE BOTSWANA-RHODESIAN BORDER) AND SEARCHED THE PREMISES OF A MOTSWANA CITIZEN NAMED MOTLHABANE AND INTERROGATED HIM ON THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS. ON THE SAME DAY 5 WHITE RHODESIAN SOLIDERS CROSSED THE BORDER ON FOOT AFTER LEAVING THEIR TRUCK (964-C57) ON THE RHODESIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER AT MAITENGWE, AND INTERROGATED AND SEARCHED SEVERAL BATSWANA ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF FREEDOME FIGHTS AND BOTSWANA POLICE PATROLS.

4. QUOTE: ON THE 10TH AND 11TH DECEMBER 1976, TWO RHODESIAN HELICOPTERS WERE SEEN FLYING VERY LOW 10 MILES INSIDE BOTSWANA AT A PLACE CALLED SEMATLAPHARI NEAR LESOTHO VILLAGE.

5. QUOTE: BONIPACE BOYANA NDLOVU ALIAS TERRACE MAWEMA A TRAIINE FREEDOM FIGHTER OF THE ANC NKOMO
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FACTION, CROSSED THE BORDER INTO BOTSWANA ON 26TH OCTOBER 1967 AND REPORTED HIS PRESENCE TO THE POLICE. NKLOVU RELATES AN INTERESTING STORY OF HAVING BEEN CAPTURED BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES IN 1975 AND THEN COERCED INTO JOINING A UNIT CALLED "SELOUS SCOUTS". THIS UNIT, A SORT OF PSEUDO GUERILLA BAND, IS USED IN THE FIEDL TO TRACK DOWN AND OBTAIN INTELLIGENCE ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS. NKLOUVU SAYS THAT ONE UNIT OF THE SELOUS SOUNTS UNER CAPTAIN KRIEL CONSISTING OF SEVEN MEN IS CURRENTLY UNDER TAINING IN RHODESIA AND IS REHEARING FOR A STRIKE INTO BOTSWANA WITH THE STATED AIMS FO ATTACKING ALLEGED FREEDOM FIGHTER GROUPS SAID TO BE BASED IN BOTSWANA. ONE SUCH BASE IS SAID TO BE NEAR TJLOLOTJO AND THE OTHER SOUTH OF PLUMTREE AND EAST OF THE RAILWAY LINE. A FURTHER INCURSION IS PLANNED BY THE SAME UNIT AGAINST FRANCISTOWN WITHE OBJECT OF CAPTURING A ZAPU LEADER LIVING THERE FROM WHOM THE RHODESIANS HOPE TO OBTAIN OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AS

IT IS ALLEDGED THEIR COVERAGE OF THIS FACTION IS POOR. NKLOVU STATES HE WAS A MEMBER OF THIS PSECIAL UNIT EHICH WAS GIVEN LEAVE AND TOLD TO RE-ASSEMBLE AGAIN ON THE 1ST NOVEMBER. FEARING THAT THE PLANNED ACTION MIGHT RESULT IN HIS DEATH, NKLOVU ABSCONDED AND SOUGHT REFUGE IN THIS COUNTRY. NKLOVU WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS SECTION OF THE "SELOUS SCOUTS" WERE GIVEN AN OPERATIONAL BRIEF ON THIER PROPOSED BOTWANA MISSION BY A LIEUTENANT NOBLE OF THE RHODEISAN SPECIAL BRANCH. NOBLE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS RESPONSBILE FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF ETHAN DUBE (DUBE, A MEMBER OF ZAPU WAS KIDNAPPED FROM FRANCIS-TOWN ON 13.10.1974). IN ADDITION TO THE ATTACK PARTY OF SEVEN, THIS SPECIAL UNIT OF THE "SELOUS SCOUTS" HAS A RECONNAISSANCE SECTION OF 4 MEN WHO WILL OPERATE INSIDE OF BOTSWANA IN ADVANCE OF THE MAIN GROUP. THE "SELOUS SCOUTS" ARE MOVED INTO THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS BY EITHER HELICOPTERS OR CIVILAIN TYPE TRUCKS. END QUOTE.

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6. EMBASSY POUCHING COMPLETE TEXT TO DEPARTMENT (AF/S PERRY) AND INFO ADDRESSEES.

NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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